

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:FHENNECKE:CHG

APPROVED BY EA - MR ZURHELLEN

EA/TB - MR ROBERTS (DRAFT)

EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

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R 300012Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, TH

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREA-THAI RELATIONS

REF: SEOUL 2932

1. ROK CHARGE KU CHONG-HOE CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ZURHELLEN APRIL 25 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE THAI RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. KU STATED THAT RTG CABINET HAD RECOMMENDED TO KING THAT THAILAND RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA AT TIME OF VISIT TO BANGKOK OF NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IN THIRD WEEK OF MAY. ROK AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK HAS APPROACHED RTG TO REQUEST DEFERRAL OF RECOGNITION AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER 30TH UNGA. KU SAID RTG HAD NOT YET RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST.

2. KU NOTED RTG SUPPORT HAD BEEN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN LAST YEAR'S UNGA DEBATE AND WOULD BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT

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THIS YEAR. HE ASKED IF WE WOULD APPROACH RTG IN SUPPORT

OF ROK REQUEST TO DEFER RECOGNITION.

3. AMBASSADOR HAHM RAISED SAME SUBJECT IN APRIL 29 CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, WHO TOLD HIM WE WILL SUPPORT ROK APPROACH. HABIB POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IT APPEARS RTG HAS ALREADY MADE BASIC DECISION TO RECOGNIZE PYONGYANG.

4. AFTER COORDINATION WITH ROK EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, EMBASSY BANGKOK SHOULD APPROACH MOFA STATING WE HAVE HEARD RTG CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AND WE HOPE THAT RTG WILL DELAY THIS STEP AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER UNGA CONSIDERATION OF KOREAN QUESTION.

5. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA HAVE MADE ROK MORE WARY OF NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS. WHILE SEOUL HAS STATED WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH FRIENDS OF NORTH KOREA, PYONGYANG HAS BLOCKED ANY FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THIS ROK INITIATIVE. GIVEN THIS NORTH KOREAN INTRANSIGENCE WE BELIEVE ROK FRIENDS SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS IN DEALING WITH PYONGYANG.

6. FYI: KOREAN EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US THAT TRANSPORTATION MINISTER CHOI KYUNG NOK ARRIVED IN BANGKOK APRIL 29. CHOI IS CARRYING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PARK TO PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT REQUESTING POSTPONEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. END FYI.

KISSINGER

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